Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar (*Director of Agriculture*): No classified statistics of cattle imported into or exported from the State are maintained.

Fodder crops in Nanjinad.

31. ***Mr. V. Chellam Pillai** : Will the Government be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to cultivate fodder crops in Nanjinad by Government or to lease out Government lands in Nanjinad for the cultivation of fodder crops ?

Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar : No.

Lands in Nanjinad for paddy cultivation.

32. ***Mr. V. Chellam Pillai** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether there is any application for lease of tank-beds and other poramboke lands in Nanjinad out-right or on conditions of conducting experiments in paddy cultivation and the like ;

(*b*) if so, the address of the applicants; and

(*c*) the conditions of lease ?

Mr. I. C. Chacko (*Ag. Chief Engineer*) : (*a*) One petition is received but it is not clear whether it is for lease or sale.

(*b*) Mr. V. S. Swaminatha Pillai, Landlord, Vadiveeswaram, Nagercoil.

(*c*) In case the land is assigned to him he has agreed (1) to abide by the instructions of the Agricultural Department and (2) to invest all capital without asking for a loan or monetary help from Government.

Rice supply.

33. ***Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi** (*Karunagapalli, Kartikapalli and Ambalapuzha* cum *Shertalla*) : Will the Government be pleased to state if they have taken any steps to overcome the difficulties consequent on the stoppage of import of rice and paddy from Burma, Siam and Indo-China?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai : With the declaration of war by Japan there was a marked increase in the price of rice and paddy but prompt measures were taken by Government to prevent any abnormal rise in price and to check profiteering or hoarding with a view to profiteering. Government have accordingly passed the Travancore Essential Commodities (Census) Order, 1117, dated 15th December 1941, and the Notification R. O. C. No. 920/41/C. S., dated 28th December 1941, under Section 81 of the Defence of Travancore Rules. Since then, the rice market within the State has not shown any violent fluctuations. The control measures

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already taken regarding the price of rice and paddy are also being enforced and these prices bear a close relation to the prices prevailing in the adjoining State of Cochin. Owing to recent developments in the war situation shipments of rice from Rangoon to Travancore parts have become impossible and suitable measures have therefore been taken to secure supplies from elsewhere. Every facility is being given by Government to large scale importers of rice from abroad and the railway authorities have been moved to provide sufficient number of waggons for the transport of rice to Travancore. Government have also taken steps to maintain supplies to meet emergencies.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: In view of the answer from Government that it has become impossible to import rice from foreign places, will the Government be able to enlighten what they mean when they say that every facility is being given by Government to large scale importers of rice from abroad? May I ask, is it a mere rhetorical flourish?

Rajyasevapravina G. Parameswaran Pillai: I may tell the honourable member that it was far from the intention of Government to indulge in rhetorical flourish. What is stated in the answer is bare fact. Certain arrangements were entered into for the shipment of rice from Rangoon. This was done by large-scale importers of rice. Owing to unforeseen events it became impossible for them to secure shipment from Rangoon or Akyab. as the case may be. Fortunately, however, a certain quantity of the rice purchased has reached Calcutta and these large scale importers have asked for the aid of Government to see that waggons and other facilities are provided in order to transport that material from Calcutta to Travancore. Government have moved the railway authorities through the Government of India. Whatever paddy or rice that the importers have succeeded in bringing to Calcutta will be attempted to be brought over here. That is the position.

Tube well at Mahadevicaud.

34. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan** (*Karunagapalli, Karthikapalli and Ambalapuzha cum Shertalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have formally acquired the site for the sinking of a tube well in Mahadevicaud (Karthikapalli taluk)?

Mr. I. C. Chacko: Yes.

Grants to Libraries and Reading Rooms.

35. ***Mr. K. M. Kesavan**: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they have made any general reduction in the grants given to Libraries and Reading Rooms; and

(*b*) if so, on what basis it has been made?

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